

definitive timeframes for adoption and updates. Broadly accepted interoperability standards are vital to the development of IT systems that can communicate and share information.

Under my legislation all federal HIT procurement must comply with the standards endorsed by the interoperability standards body. In addition, all agencies that collect health data electronically for purposes of quality reporting, health surveillance and other purposes must comply with endorsed standards. For HIT to gain a foothold in the health care marketplace, it is essential for the federal government to utilize its purchasing power in healthcare to ensure the United States is rapidly adopting these innovative technologies.

The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act also provides important protections for patients and their sensitive medical information. The bill establishes an ongoing system for certification of Electronic Health Records products by third-party entities and guarantees that individuals will have the right to inspect and obtain a copy of their EHRs and amend any inaccurate or fraudulent information. It also clarifies that operators of health information electronic databases like Google Health, Revolution Health, and WebMD are deemed to be covered entities under HIPAA. The use of non-identifiable health data for public health and research purposes is permitted with appropriate patient approval.

The bill establishes a process for the development of reports by "Health Quality Organizations" on federal healthcare data to advance healthcare research, enhance consumer education and awareness, and provide the public with reports on national, regional, and provider- and supplier-specific performance.

Finally, to provide resources for the adoption of HIT nationwide the Promotion of Health Information Technology Act authorizes funding for grant programs to assist state and local governments adopt HIT and promote adoption within their states. It also establishes a grant program for regional health information exchanges and a competitive grant program for private sector healthcare providers, with a preference for providers that use the "Medical Home" patient care model, which allows patients to have a single point of care and a medical provider to coordinate care through the use of HIT. The legislation also provides incentives for utilizing broadband to deliver HIT in underserved areas and funding of academic curricula to train qualified Health IT professionals.

Madam Speaker, the power of HIT to transform American health care is clear, but without aggressive action by the Congress to promote and adopt HIT, we will not see the benefits of these innovative technologies for years to come. The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act will ensure that the federal government foster the development and implementation of advanced Health IT networks and technologies in our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, due to inclement weather I missed the following votes

on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. I would have voted as follows:

(1) "Yea" on H. Res. 32—Denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society.

(2) "Yea" on H.R. 400—War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO THE ORANGE GROVE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Religious Society of Friends upon the 100th anniversary of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends in Pasadena, California.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends was founded in 1907 by a group of twenty Eastern Quakers who had moved to Pasadena. Quakers have played leading roles in working for peace and an end to war, promoting racial and gender equality, and supporting environmental and other social justice causes. After World War I, the Meeting members supported the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), which engaged in post war relief efforts in Western Europe and Russia, and also helped establish AFSC's Pacific Coast branch.

During World War II, the Meeting house served as a hostel for Japanese-Americans being sent to internment camps, and aid was sent to those already interned. The Meeting members provided hospitality and financial support to area conscientious objectors and their families, and after the end of the war, hosted families displaced by the war and its aftermath.

Meeting members have frequently led the way in civil rights and social justice movements. Meeting members took part in efforts to desegregate the Pasadena school system, participated in freedom rides in the South and attended the Selma, Alabama protests.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends founded educational institutions that provide a nurturing educational environment for children. Pacific Ackworth Friends School (1942) and Pacific Oaks School (1945) were established by Meeting parents. In 1961, Mara Moser, an Orange Grove Friends member, established Mothers' Club to support families of men in prison. Mothers' Club later evolved into a child development and family center serving low-income families.

Members of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends are active participants in the community. Meeting members routinely provide dinner for the homeless at Union Station in Pasadena, participate in many prison visitation programs and allow the Meeting house to be used by local groups for activities such as a tutoring program for elementary school children.

It is my pleasure to honor the Orange Grove Friends Meeting of Pasadena on its 100th an-

niversary of dedicated service to the community. I ask all Members to join me in commending their efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, today I offer my best wishes and congratulations to the people of Taiwan in recognition of the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

During the late 1980s and early 1990s Taiwan witnessed a peaceful transition of political power to a full-fledged democracy and a multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law. I commend the people of Taiwan for building a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous island.

For over 50 years, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship, which has been of mutual political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage. I believe that the United States should remain committed to enhancing stability, security, and prosperity in Taiwan and across the Taiwan Strait.

In celebration of this Double Tenth National Day, it is my hope that the United States, Taiwan, and the People's Republic of China can maintain dialogue and work together to promote enduring peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in the Taiwan Strait.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, because my airline flight was delayed I was not able to be present for two votes on October 9th. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 949—passage of H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor" killings, acid burning, dowry deaths, and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral, and honorable society—I would have voted "yes."

Rollcall No. 950—passage of H.R. 400, War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007—I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING COBB COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD WINNERS

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I am able to recognize and honor a number of dedicated and selfless public servants from Cobb County, Georgia

today. The Cobb County Chamber of Commerce recently presented two awards for notable devotion to public safety and awareness. The presentation of these awards marked the beginning of Public Safety Awareness Week, a celebration of the men and women who work every day throughout Cobb County to keep our communities safe and secure.

On October 1, 2007, the Cobb Chamber Public Safety Employee of the Year Award was presented to Mr. James Arrowood, the Director of Public Safety for Cobb County Schools. This award is a notable highlight in a distinguished 35-year career in public safety for Mr. Arrowood. Each day Cobb County parents place their trust in Director Arrowood, as he ensures a safe learning environment for all Cobb students. I applaud Mr. Arrowood on this exceptional honor and all he does for our community.

Also recognized for their pursuit of public safety, the Cobb Chamber Award of Merit was presented to the Wildland Fire Response Team of the Marietta Fire Department. The Team courageously traveled to fire-ravaged South Georgia in May of 2007 to assist in a vital fight to extinguish the out-of-control blazes. When Georgians needed help the most, the Marietta Wildland Fire Response Team responded as true heroes would. Sacrificing their safety to ensure the survival of an endangered area of the State, the Team epitomizes strength and character of our public safety professionals.

The countless hard working men and women of public safety too often go unnoticed. It is necessary and responsible that we honor them this way, and I commend the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce for their support of this initiative. Public Safety Awareness Week serves as an important reminder that our safety is not assured without the hard work of public safety professionals and volunteers.

Madam Speaker, I join with the House of Representatives today in declaring a sincere appreciation for these honorable award winners and dedicated public servants. Congratulations, Director Arrowood and the Marietta Wildland Fire Response Team.

COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3432, an excellent bill that commemorates the abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

This year marks a very important anniversary in history—the 200th anniversary of the enactment of the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act. It was in 1807 when then President Thomas Jefferson signed into law this vital Act. Nearly 200 years prior, in 1619, twenty Africans arrived in Jamestown, Virginia aboard a Dutch ship. This was the beginning in America of the atrocity of slavery which unfortunately lasted for more than 2 centuries.

While America was in deep turmoil over the morality of slavery, William Wilberforce, a

Member of the U.K. Parliament, led the campaign to abolish the transatlantic slave trade in Britain. This great man was a statesman, an avowed and practicing Christian, and a champion of the underprivileged.

Early on, Wilberforce wrestled with whether he should pursue a calling from God or serve as a driving force in the House of Commons. He successfully accomplished both. Wilberforce was an example of faith in action, modeling that we do not have to abandon our values to be effective in our jobs—whether as a business owner, nurse, mechanic, working mom or Member of Congress.

We must stand up for our beliefs and fight passionately for our causes. We must not betray our values or our faith, and never cease to help those in need. On the 200th anniversary of the 1807 abolition of the U.K. and U.S. slave trade, we should reflect on the greatness of those who stood up for what was right and true—even though it was not popular.

It wasn't until 1865 that slavery in the United States was abolished through the passing of the Thirteenth Amendment. Then President, Abraham Lincoln, helped push the bill through Congress. Earlier in his presidency, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves. He believed this was “the central act of my administration, and the great event of the nineteenth century.”

While slavery ended, discrimination continued. It is my hope that we will remember the struggles of this great Nation and continue our efforts to stand for what is right. We can build momentum and engage communities to find new ways to improve our culture.

I am honored each day to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and stand faithfully for what is right. It is a privilege to cast my vote in favor of a bill that honors a great moment in our history.

I look forward to today's passage of H.R. 3432.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE OF FOSTER YOUTH

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution to recognize the importance of improving the high school graduation rate of foster youth. I was accompanied by my colleagues JIM McDERMOTT, the Chairman of the Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee on which I serve as ranking Republican, PHIL ENGLISH, and JOHN LEWIS.

A recent series of hearings in the subcommittee reflected on the fact that school stability and high school completion are strongly associated with better outcomes for young people making the transition to adulthood. We know that connecting kids with their schools means strengthening the circle of friends, teachers, coaches, and other mentors that can help them become more independent and develop the habits and skills needed to succeed for life on their own.

Over 20,000 youth “age out” of the Nation's foster care system each year. Among many

serious challenges, these young people have lower high school graduation rates, higher rates of homelessness, and a greater chance of becoming incarcerated than other youth their age. Too many youth who age out of foster care stumble and fall on their way to adulthood. Some never recover. Others find their way only through extraordinary personal effort, the involvement of dedicated relatives and other adults, a little luck, or all of the above.

We should be doing everything we can to increase high school completion rates in general. And for kids in foster care, it is especially important for them to stay connected to their school and complete high school. Such action will give former foster youth a solid start on their way to a successful adulthood. That is in everyone's interest.

HONORING THE SAFETY EXCELLENCE OF SMURFIT-STONE CONTAINER CORPORATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding effort of Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation paper mill in Hodge, Louisiana, under the leadership of General Manager Roger P. Hagan, in fulfilling its responsibility as a Good Corporate Citizen.

As of September 14, 2007, The Hodge branch of Smurfit-Stone became the first mill in the company's history to successfully reach two million hours of operation without an accident, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. For any corporation, this is an accomplishment, and I am proud to honor the men and women of Smurfit-Stone who strive to maintain high standards in the workplace and make safety a top priority.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Roger P. Hagan and Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation for promoting a safe environment in the work place and for putting employee safety first.

90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ROTARY CLUB OF LONG BEACH

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, the Long Beach Rotary is celebrating 90 years of service to the community on Wednesday, October 10, 2007. In honor of this auspicious occasion, the Long Beach Rotary partnered with the City of Long Beach and the Conservation Corps of Long Beach to plant 90 trees in one day at various parks around the City.

The 90th Anniversary Celebration and tree planting at Rotary Centennial Park will be the culmination of this year's endeavors. Rotary Centennial Park, which was created by the Long Beach Rotary in anticipation of its century of service, was created in a former redline right-of-way. The site is now a clean, green,